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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

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21 August 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military Situation

Summary

UN forces are continuing to make gains in the center and east sectors. The enemy bridgehead over the Nakdong River in the Changnyong area has been completely eliminated, and enemy attacks in both the south and center sectors have been repulsed. The enemy appears to be either withdrawing in the north sector or shifting to other positions in the area. On the east coast, UN forces have pressed forward several miles north of the recaptured towns of Kigye and Pohang. Enemy construction of new revetments at Suwon and Kimpo airfields suggests preparations for increased air efforts, although there is no evidence of a build-up in the estimated strength of 27 aircraft now available to the North Koreans.

There was little enemy activity in the sectors of Incheon, Anson, and Suwon.

South Sector

The North Korean 6th Division, possibly reinforced by elements of the enemy 7th Division, formerly reported in the north sector, launched attacks in regimental strength against two units of the US 25th Division. The attack against the US 35th Regiment has been repulsed with heavy enemy losses, and the attack against the US 24th Regiment, although making a small penetration, is reported under control. South Korean marines drove enemy forces out of Tongyong and captured 35 POWs.

Center Sector

The enemy 4th Division has suffered heavy losses in retreating from the bridgehead across the Nakdong River in the US 24th Division zone southwest of Changnyong. Further north, the enemy still maintains a bridgehead in the Taksong area, and there are unconfirmed reports of enemy armor and artillery in the bridgehead. Enemy activity opposite the US 1st Cavalry Division has been confined to patrol action and

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- 2 -

sporadic artillery fire, but reports continue to indicate a build-up west and north of Naegwan. To the north of the US 1st Cavalry positions, the enemy launched an attack against positions of the US 27th Regiment and the South Korean 1st Division. The attack has been repulsed, but the enemy continues to exert heavy pressure along the entire front.

North Sector

This sector has been quiet. Patrols of the South Korean 8th Division have made relatively deep penetrations without contacting the enemy. The North Korean forces may be withdrawing from this sector for use elsewhere, or may be regrouping in the rear.

East Coast

The enemy 12th Division has been defeated in its attempt to take the Pohang area, and the South Korean Capital and 3rd Divisions have advanced approximately four miles north of Kigye and Pohang against light, but gradually increasing, resistance.

Navy

Visual reconnaissance of the Korean west coast on 19 August indicated there was little enemy activity in the harbors of Inchon, Kunsan, and Mokpo.

Air

Photo reconnaissance has revealed 19 new and six repaired revetments at Kimpo airfield, one probably new revetment at Taejon, and eight probably new or repaired revetments at Suwon. The building and repairing of revetments suggests that the North Koreans anticipate reinforcements for their air force, which has been reduced to an estimated 27 planes.

II. Other Developments

52x Ambassador Muccio reports from Taegu that the city is returning to normalcy. Conflicting orders issued on 18 and 19 August sent a large portion of the population streaming southward with a consequent lowering of overall ROK morale. An estimated 80 percent of those who left the city have returned over the weekend, and, despite ineffective shelling of the city from extreme ranges, normal activities are being resumed.

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- 3 -

In the occupied areas, the North Koreans are attempting to ensure control and security by imposing travel restrictions on the movements of persons over 12 kilometers from their domiciles, and by threatening to impose the death penalty against all those who have failed to surrender radios capable of receiving short wave broadcasts.

R. H. HILLENKOTTER
Rear Admiral, USN
Director of Central
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